



Phase II and Phase III Archeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18BC140

Site Name: Star Spangled Banner Flag Hse

Prehistoric ☒

Other name(s)

Historic ☒

Unknown ☐

Brief Description:

18th-20th century domestic site and 20th century museum

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Latitude 39.2947 Longitude -76.6118

Elevation -6 m Site slope

Site setting

-Site Setting restricted

-Lat/Long accurate to within 1 sq. mile, user may need to make slight adjustments in mapping to account for sites near state/county lines or streams

Maryland Archeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site ☒

Underwater site ☐

Ethnobotany profile available ☐ Maritime site ☐

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Jones Falls (channelized)

Saltwater

Ocean ☐

Estuary/tidal river ☐

Tidewater/marsh ☐

Minimum distance to water is

Freshwater

Stream/river ☒

Swamp ☐

Lake or pond ☐

Spring ☐

122 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site ☐

Woodland site ☐

Archaic site ☐

MD Adena ☐

Early archaic ☐

Early woodland ☐

Middle archaic ☐

Mid. woodland ☐

Late archaic ☐

Late woodland ☐

Unknown prehistoric context ☒

Contact period site ☐

ca. 1820 - 1860

☒

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

☒

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

☒

ca. 1720 - 1780

Post 1930

☒

ca. 1780 - 1820

☒

Unknown historic context ☐

Unknown context ☐

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American ☐

Asian American ☐

African American ☒

Unknown ☐

Anglo-American ☒

Other ☒

Hispanic ☐

Italian American ☐

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

Prehistoric

Multi-component ☐

Misc. ceremonial ☐

Village ☐

Rock art ☐

Hamlet ☐

Shell midden ☐

Base camp ☐

STU/lithic scatter ☒

Rockshelter/cave ☐

Quarry/extraction ☐

Earthen mound ☐

Fish weir ☐

Cairn ☐

Production area ☐

Burial area ☐

Unknown ☐

Other context ☐

Historic

Urban/Rural? Urban ☒

Domestic

Homestead ☒

Farmstead ☐

Mansion ☐

Plantation ☐

Row/townhome ☐

Cellar ☐

Privy ☒

Industrial

Mining-related ☐

Quarry-related ☐

Mill ☐

Black/metalsmith ☐

Furnace/forge ☐

Other ☐

Transportation

Canal-related ☐

Road/railroad ☐

Wharf/landing ☐

Maritime-related ☐

Bridge ☐

Ford ☐

Educational

Commercial

Trading post ☐

Store ☐

Tavern/inn ☐

Military

Battlefield ☐

Fortification ☐

Encampment ☐

Townsite

Church/mtg house ☐

Ch support bldg ☐

Burial area

Cemetery ☐

Sepulchre ☐

Isolated burial ☐

Bldg or foundation ☒

Possible Structure ☐

Post-in-ground ☐

Frame-built ☐

Masonry ☐

Other structure ☐

Slave related ☒

Non-domestic agri ☐

Recreational ☐

Midden/dump ☒

Artifact scatter ☐

Spring or well ☐

Unknown ☐

Other context ☒

domestic site ☐

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken ☒

Flotation samples taken ☒

Other samples taken ☐

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken ☒

Flotation samples taken ☒

Other samples taken ☐



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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types	
Clovis	<input type="text"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="text"/>
Palmer	<input type="text"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="text"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="text"/>
Le Croy	<input type="text"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="text"/>
Guilford	<input type="text"/>
Brewerton	<input type="text"/>
Otter Creek	<input type="text"/>
Koens-Crispin	<input type="text"/>
Perkiomen	<input type="text"/>
Susquehana	<input type="text"/>
Vernon	<input type="text"/>
Piscataway	<input type="text"/>
Calvert	<input type="text"/>
Selby Bay	<input type="text"/>
Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="text"/>
Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="text"/>
Madison/Potomac	<input type="text"/>
Levanna	<input type="text"/>

Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	<input type="text"/>	Popes Creek	<input type="text"/>	Shepard	<input type="text"/>	Keyser	<input type="text"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="text"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="text"/>	Townsend	<input type="text"/>	Yeocomico	<input type="text"/>
Selden Island	<input type="text"/>	Watson	<input type="text"/>	Minguannan	<input type="text"/>	Monongahela	<input type="text"/>
Accokeek	<input type="text"/>	Mockley	<input type="text"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="text"/>	Susquehannock	<input type="text"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="text"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="text"/>	Shenks Ferry	<input type="text"/>		
Vinette	<input type="text"/>	Page	<input type="text"/>	Moyaone	<input type="text"/>		
				Potomac Cr	<input type="text"/>		

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone	28	Staffordshire	1	Stoneware	
Astbury	<input type="text"/>	Jackfield	4	Tin Glazed	2	English Brown	1
Borderware	<input type="text"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="text"/>	Whiteware	130	Eng Dry-bodie	<input type="text"/>
Buckley	<input type="text"/>	North Devon	<input type="text"/>	Porcelain	64	Nottingham	<input type="text"/>
Creamware	104	Pearlware	130			Rhenish	<input type="text"/>
						Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="text"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts	
Flaked stone	393
Ground stone	<input type="text"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="text"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="text"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="text"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="text"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="text"/>
Other fired clay	<input type="text"/>
Human remain(s)	<input type="text"/>
Modified faunal	<input type="text"/>
Unmod faunal	<input type="text"/>
Oyster shell	<input type="text"/>
Floral material	<input type="text"/>
Uncommon Obj.	<input type="text"/>
Other	<input type="text"/>

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="text"/>	Storage/trash pit	<input type="text"/>
Midden	<input type="text"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="text"/>
Shell midden	<input type="text"/>	Ossuary	<input type="text"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="text"/>	Unknown	<input type="text"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="text"/>	Other	<input type="text"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="text"/>		
Hearth(s)	<input type="text"/>		
Lithic reduc area	<input type="text"/>		

Lithic Material

Jasper	<input type="text"/>	Fer quartzite	<input type="text"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="text"/>
Chert	<input type="text"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="text"/>	European flint	<input type="text"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="text"/>	Ironstone	<input type="text"/>	Basalt	<input type="text"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="text"/>	Unknown	<input type="text"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="text"/>	Other	<input type="text"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="text"/>		

☒ Dated features present at site

Numerous historic features containing diagnostic historic artifacts

Historic Artifacts	
Pottery (all)	980
Glass (all)	2644
Architectural	3205
Furniture	30
Arms	3
Clothing	122
Personal items	95
Tobacco related	8
Activity item(s)	292
Human remain(s)	<input type="text"/>
Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Misc. kitchen	6763
Floral material	<input type="text"/>
Misc.	2216
Other	<input type="text"/>

Historic Features

Privy/outhouse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="text"/>	Unknown	<input type="text"/>
Const feature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="text"/>	Other	<input type="text"/>
Foundation	<input type="text"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="text"/>		
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="text"/>	Earthworks	<input type="text"/>		
Hearth/chimney	<input type="text"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="text"/>		
Postholes/molds	<input type="text"/>	Wheel pit	<input type="text"/>		
Paling ditch/fence	<input type="text"/>				

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Radiocarbon Data:

Sample 1:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 2:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 3:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability
Sample 4:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 5:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 6:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability
Sample 7:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 8:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 9:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability

☐ Additional radiocarbon results available



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Unknown ☐

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at Maryland Historical Society

☐ Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Star-Spangled Banner House Site (18BC140) is an 18th-20th century domestic site and the location where, in 1814, the famous "Star-Spangled Banner" was manufactured by Mary Pickersgill prior to the Battle of Baltimore. The site is situated at the northwest corner of Albemarle and Pratt Streets in that portion of Baltimore known either as Jones Town or Old Town. The site today is a museum and interpretive center open to the general public. The Star-Spangled Banner Flag House complex consist of the Mary Pickersgill's rowhouse and a visitor's center which extend along Pratt and Albemarle Streets respectively. Behind the buildings is a large garden which contains large magnolia trees, roses, and other plantings. A large map of the United States made of stone from each of the 50 states occupaies part of the garden. The area of the garden did not actually belong to Mary Pickersgill, but was occupied by other rowhouses and buildings up until the 1950s. Most of the landscape surrounding the site is heavily developed. Soils mapped for the area are classified as "Urban Land" meaning that 80% of the surface is covered either by buildings or by impervious surfaces such as asphalt or concrete.

The original address of the Star-Spangled Banner House was 22 Albemarle Street. The site was originally part of a patent known as "Todd's Range" owned by the Philpot family. In 1773, Brian Philpot, Jonathan Plowman, and William Fells subdivided their land, and made an addition of it to the City of Baltimore. Sales in the area were slow, due to much of the land being covered by the marshy delta at the mouth of the Jones Falls.

Philpot drained the marsh land and began to sell lots and build homes in the area during the latter part of the 18th century. A 1792 map of the area shows that the corner lot at Albemarle and Queen (now Pratt) Street has not been developed. However, on 15 April, 1793, Philpot sold the lot to Jesse Brown (a merchant-tailor of Baltimore) and the price of that transaction suggests that Philpot had probably built a house on the lot just prior to the sale. In 1799, Benjamin Dutton leased the house from Jesse Brown, which he lived in until about 1801. During Dutton's tenancy, the property was sold several times, first from Jess Brown to James Brown in 1799, and then from James Brown to Amos Vickers (Dutton's uncle) in 1800. The transactions reveal that the lot measured 11.6 X 30.5 m (38 X 100 ft) and had a house on it.

In 1807, Amos Vickers leased the rowhouse to Mary (Young) Pickersgill, as well as her mother and daughter (Caroline Pickersgill). Mary was a widow, whose husband died 2 years earlier while working abroad as a claims agent for the US government. Her mother, Rebecca Young, had also been widowed young and took up the trade of flag-making for the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. In 1780 and 1781, she placed advertisements in the Philadelphia Advertiser and the Pennsylvania Packet reading, "Colours for the Army and Navy made and sold on reasonable terms by Rebecca Young". Rebecca passed this trade on to the widowed Mary.

The house that Mary and Caroline Pickersgill and Rebecca Young moved into was a two storey brick house with a third storey attic. The house shared a party wall with a house to its west on Queen Street. The two houses also shared a chimney with 8 flues. The Pickersgill home had a kitchen to the rear of the building. The kitchen wing, also known as a flounder, was built at the same time as the main block of the house and was also 2 storeys. However, the kitchen had a chimney that was separate from the rest of the house. Two insurance policies were written by the Baltimore Equitable Society for the house in 1799 when Dutton was the tenant. The first covered the house and the second covered the kitchen.

Mary Pickersgill settled into 22 Albemarle and continued her trade as a flag maker. The Baltimore that she lived in had only recently become a city. By 1793, the population of Baltimore Town had grown so large that a group of Baltimore merchants began to lobby the Maryland General Assembly for a charter of incorporation as a city. The charter was granted in 1796 and Baltimore continued to grow. The Pickersgill home in Old Town was in one of the more fashionable areas of the city. Their neighbors included Christopher Deshon, a merchant a ship owner, on the corner of King George and Front Streets. This mansion was built in 1808 and was later purchased by Richard and Mary Caton in 1818. Mary's father, Charles Carroll of Carrollton was the sole Catholic to sign the Declaration of Independence. He was also the wealthiest man in Maryland. By that time, Carroll typically made his home with his daughter in Baltimore in the winter and at his estate, Doughoregan Manor, near Ellicott City in the summer. General William McDonald lived next door to the Pickersgills on Queen Street. He moved into his home in 1808. After the American Revolution, McDonald set up a shipping business in Fells Point. In 1814, the Chesapeake, the first steamship built in Baltimore, was added to the fleet of William McDoland & Son.

However, the neighborhood was not entirely upperclass or residential. Tradesmen owned homes and operated their businesses on the premises. These businesses included a brewery, a cut nail factory, a maker of spinning wheels, a printer, a watchmaker and jeweler, a plow maker, a cabinetmaker, a carver and gilder, as well as Mary Pickersgill's own flag making enterprise. There was even a seminary for young ladies on High Street.

The Pickersgill's first few years in Baltimore occurred during the events leading up to the War of 1812. Though trade embargoes were in place and several naval skirmishes and Indian uprisings in the Old Northwest Territory (Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana) had occurred, it wasn't until June of 1812 that Congress passed a Declaration of War between the US and Great Britain. At the time, Baltimore was the 4th largest and 3rd richest city in the United States. For the British, the city was a top target. Also, over the course of the war, Baltimore privateers would take over 500 British ships. The main defense of Baltimore's Harbor was Fort McHenry. In a letter from Major George Armistead, Commandant of the fort, to Major Samuel Smith, dated June or early July, 1813, Armistead wrote: "We, sir, are ready at Fort McHenry to defend Baltimore against invading by the enemy. That is to say, we are ready except that we have no suitable ensign to display over the Star Fort, and it is my desire to have a flag so large that the British will have no difficulty in seeing it from a distance. Mary Pickersgill was approached in July of 1813 by Commodore Joshua Barney and Brigadier General John S. Stricker to make an ensign or flag to fly over Fort McHenry.

The flag that Mary produced was 30 feet high by 42 feet long. It contained 15 stripes of red and white cloth, each approximately 2 feet wide. There were also fifteen white five-pointed stars on a field of blue. Each star was two feet wide from point to point. Because of the size of the flag, Mary had to spread it out on the floor of a malt house belonging to her neighbor George Brown (see synopsis report for 18BC38). Mary, her daughter Caroline, and her nieces, Eliza Margaret and Jane Young sewed the flag by hand. The flag was finished by August 1813. A receipt for the flag from Major Armistead, signed for Mary Pickersgill by her niece Eliza Young indicates that Mary was paid \$405.90 for the large flag measuring 30 by 42 feet. She was paid \$168.54 for a smaller flag measuring 17 by 25 feet. The date for the bill is 19 August, 1813, and the date of payment was 27 October, 1813.

In early September, 1814, the British routed American forces at Bladensburg, Maryland. They then marched to Washington DC and burned the major public buildings. For the next 11 days they looted Alexandria, Virginia. During this period, the forces at Fort McHenry used the time to build up defenses. The British were defeated at North Point when they attempted to invade Baltimore by land. On the night of September 13-14, the British Navy attacked Baltimore. The



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Unknown ☐

attack was, for the British, a complete failure. Admiral Alexander Cochrane sent five bomb ships into Baltimore, but, in an attempt to avoid damage from Fort McHenry's guns, Cochrane kept the ships at maximum range and the bombs typically exploded before getting close enough to the fort to have an impact.

The Americans took the day and the British pulled out of the Chesapeake. Mary Pickersgill's flag, flying over Fort McHenry during the battle was viewed by Francis Scott Key. Key and some associates had been were aboard a British ship at the time of the battle as part of a diplomatic mission to effect a prisoner exchange. Key spent the night on-board watching the battle rage and famously penned the poem that would eventually become the National Anthem.

The War of 1812 lasted 2½ years. The Treaty of Ghent was signed on 24 December 1814, but would not be ratified by the US Congress or the British Parliament until February of 1815. In the interim, a British military force attacked the City of New Orleans and was utterly defeated on January 8th, 1815 by the American forces under Andrew Jackson. Due to the communications technology of the day, there was no way for either the British or American forces in New Orleans to know that a peace treaty had been signed. In any event, the peace treaty, though signed, was not official until ratified by both legislative bodies.

After the war, Baltimore returned to the business of mercantile commerce. In 1816, Baltimore City annexed additional property. For a few years after the annexation, growth in Baltimore slowed as the city incorporated physical and social changes resulting from the rapid turn-of-the-century growth. In 1820, Mary Pickersgill became a home owner. In January of 1818, Mary acquired a half-interest in her home. The acquisition was in lieu of payment of a \$1000 debt owed her by Benjamin Dutton and William Jones Dutton, the heirs of Amos Vickers. On 19 September, 1820, she purchased the other half-interest from Benjamin Vickers Dutton. The property she purchased was 62 feet deep by 20 feet wide. In 1828, Pratt Street was extended east and the address of the house was changed from to 44 Pratt Street.

After 1818, Mary Pickersgill is no longer listed in the Baltimore city directories. Instead, her son-in-law, John Purdy, a merchant is listed. An 1831 directory listing identifies him as an iron merchant, and it is thought that Purdy made significant improvements to the kitchen, fitting it with the latest iron stoves and kitchen equipment. Architectural evidence in the rear kitchen, as well as ghosting in the exterior brickwork suggest that changes were made around 1830 and that a beehive oven may have been installed at that time. A few months before her death in October 1857, Mary deeded the house and all its effects to her daughter, Caroline Pickersgill Purdy along with 4 slaves.

Caroline Purdy remained in the house until 1864. In May of 1864, the Purdy heirs leased the house to Nicholas Becker. Six months later, he bought the property outright. In February of 1869, Samuel Ready purchased the property. He leased it to Lewis J. Long on the same day. The Longs ran a liquor store on the first floor and lived on the second floor. It was probably during this time that partition walls on the first floor were removed in order to open up space for commerce.

Samuel Ready continued as the owner of 44 Pratt Street until his death in 1878. At his death, the property passed to the Board of Trustees of the Samuel Ready Asylum for Female Orphans. The trustees held the property until 1928, leasing it out to various residential tenants and also commercial enterprises.

In 1914, the Star-Spangled Banner Centennial was organized and lead by Dr. and Mrs. Arthur B. Bibbins. A bronze plaque was placed on the house and a donor Flag House Honor Roll was formed. Enrollment in the honor roll was earned by donating one dollar. Over the next 13 years monies would continue to be raised, and the city was lobbied to purchase the building. On 19 April, 1927 the City of Baltimore purchased the Flag House for \$5,000 from the Board of Trustees of the Samuel Ready Asylum for Female Orphans. On that same day the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House Association, Inc. was chartered. The express purpose of the organization was the, "custody, possession and management of the said property...to restore the same to good and safe conditions as a public shrine..." Over the next several decades, the house would slowly be restored and preserved for the public.

The first documented archeological work at the Flag House (18BC140) occurred in September and January of 1998. At the time, the Star-Spangled Banner House Association, Inc. planned to construct a working beehive oven over the foundations of the original oven posited to be there based on architectural details (previously mentioned), to use in interpretive demonstrations. The Baltimore Center for Urban Archaeology (BCUA) undertook excavations in the 3.05 X 2.3 m (10 X 7.5 ft) area adjacent to the north wall of the kitchen of the house where the reconstructed oven was to be built. Funds for research and restoration were provided by a non-capital grant from the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT).

Four units were placed adjacent to the north exterior wall of the kitchen. Two of the units measured 1.524 m (5 ft) square. The remaining two units measured 1.524 m east/west by .762 m (2.5 ft) north/south. The surface of the excavation area was covered with herringbone pattern brick pavers.

All units were dug by stratigraphic layer. In all units, unique strata were removed as individual levels. In most of the units, if a stratum exceeded 15.24 cm (6 in) in depth, it was excavated as a series of arbitrary levels within the stratum. This was not true of fill levels encountered in a rodent burrow and two pipe trench features. These layers were excavated in mass and were not split up into smaller levels. Most of the soil removed from the units was passed through hardware mesh. Exceptions to this included the recent clay fill in the pipe trenches. Unit level forms were kept for each unique level within a unit. Feature forms were kept for each unique feature. Plan views were made of features and profiles were done of one wall in each unit. Almost all of the features were profiled, exceptions being the rodent burrow, pipe trenches, and their associated active sewer and water pipes. A photographic record (both still photography and video) of the excavation was also made.

A total of 15,507 artifacts were recovered during excavation of 18BC140. Of this total, 4,472 were recovered in the unit levels, while the remaining 11,035 were recovered within the features encountered during excavation. A total of 21 features were encountered, the most productive of which were a large utility trench (2,944 artifacts), the remains of the beehive oven (1,073 artifacts), and a square brick-lined privy (6,076 artifacts). Other features included builder's trenches, a repair trench, rodent burrows, planting holes, postholes and postmolds, a burned area, additional privies and numerous other pipe and utility trenches.

Historic artifacts recovered during the course of the excavation included 292 activity items, 3,205 architectural artifacts, 122 clothing items, 30 furniture objects, 9,176 kitchen-related artifacts, 95 personal objects, 8 tobacco-related artifacts, 3 arms objects, and 2,216 miscellaneous items. Activity items included 8 toys (a stone marble, 3 ceramic marbles, 2 porcelain doll parts, & 2 glass doll eyes), 213 lighting objects, (209 pieces of lamp glass and 4 other lamp parts), 10 tools (a glass pipette fragment, 4 pieces of kiln furniture, a hoe, 2 pencil parts, an unidentified iron tool, and a tool handle), 47 pieces of hardware, a padlock, a spark plug, and 12 flowerpot fragments. The architectural assemblage consisted of 68 pieces of brick, 3 asphalt shingles, 25 other pieces of roofing material, 481 pieces of miscellaneous construction material (mortar, plaster, etc.), a ceramic tile, 1,175 window glass fragments, a piece of window lead, a piece of architectural stone, a piece of dried paint, a piece of dried caulking, a ceramic sewer pipe fragment, 416 nails (6 wrought, 21 cut, 52



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wire, and 337 unidentified), a spike, 3 hinges, a construction staple, and 1,026 other architectural objects. One hundred and twenty-two clothing objects were recovered, including 80 buttons (3 bone, 4 porcelain, 57 glass, 4 brass/copper, 1 Bakelite, 4 rubber, 3 shell, 1 plastic, 3 other), a copper alloy snap, 2 metal buckles, 13 pieces of leather, 6 fabric fragments, 2 wood clothespins, 1 pair of scissors, a thimble, 2 pins, and 14 miscellaneous objects. The 30 furniture artifacts were a furniture tack, a curtain ring, a drawer handle, and 27 unidentified furniture items. The kitchen assemblage consisted of 944 ceramic sherds (2 Delftware, 4 Jackfield, 104 creamware, 130 pearlware, 1 Staffordshire, 14 slipware, 2 Chinese porcelain, 62 porcelain, 28 ironstone, 130 whiteware, 13 yellowware, 7 Rockingham, 356 redware, 1 English Brown, 5 Rosso Antico, 25 other stoneware, and 60 other ceramic sherds), 1,469 pieces of glass (30 table glass and 1,439 bottle glass), 10 crown caps, 4 porcelain stoppers, a wood cork, an iron screw cap, 2 knives, an iron pot rim, 14 tin can fragments, 5,559 faunal remains (4,753 animal bones/teeth, 159 oyster shell fragments, 1 clam shell, 1 other shell, 207 fish scales, 107 egg shells, and 331 unidentified faunal), 101 floral artifacts (95 grape seeds, 4 peach pits, and 2 unidentified seeds), and 1,070 miscellaneous kitchen objects. The personal items were a piece of used chewing gum, 3 Indian Head pennies, 6 corroded coins, a 1919 penny, a 1943 nickel, 2 glass figurine pieces, 1 porcelain figurine piece, 8 pieces of mirror glass, a cowry shell, a redware bead, a blue glass bead, 2 copper alloy rings, 8 garter pieces, 36 chamberpot fragments (8 ironstone), 11 grooming items (a Bakelite razor handle, a brush handle, a bone/horn comb, 4 plastic comb fragments, a plastic lice comb, and 3 bone handles), and 12 miscellaneous personal objects. Tobacco-related artifacts were a kaolin pipe bowl, 6 kaolin pipe stems, and a rouletted pipe bowl. The arms objects were 3 shell casings. The remaining 2,216 miscellaneous objects in the historic assemblage included 337 iron fragments, 10 copper alloy fragments, a piece of lead, 25 rat bones, 4 pieces of plastic, 16 pieces of coal, 76 charcoal fragments, 2 pieces of slag, 37 unidentified wood fragments, and 1,708 unidentified items.

In addition to the historic artifacts described above, 393 prehistoric artifacts were identified. The assemblage included 2 quartz point bases, 2 quartz cores, 344 quartz flakes, 12 quartz shatter fragments, 3 chert flakes, and 30 unidentified prehistoric objects.

There are at least five buried yard surfaces at the site. These are represented by strata III, IV, V, VI, and VII. Stratum III appears to at least date to the period 1928 through 1953 and is associated with the occupation of the Flag House by the Flag House Association and its use as a museum. Stratum IV appears to date from at least the third quarter of the 19th century through circa 1928 and is associated with occupation of the house by various tenants and businesses. Strata V, VI, and VII appear to represent three very early yard layers. Artifacts recovered in the three strata indicate that they date from the prehistoric era through the mid-19th century. They are associated with a prehistoric lithic station and yard deposits from the late 18th century through early 19th century. The latter places the strata in the occupation period of Rebecca Young, Mary Young Pickersgill, and Caroline Pickersgill Purdy.

Features at the site may be divided into several distinct groupings. The earliest features are the beehive oven and the privy and its associated features. These features date to the period of occupancy by Mary Pickersgill and her family. The oven was probably built after 1799 but before 1807 (i.e. it was not added by John Purdy, but dates to an earlier period). It is not mentioned in a 1799 insurance policy for the house or kitchen (see above). However, artifacts in the lowest levels of the oven feature and in the associated builder's trench and structural posts indicate that it was present by 1810. As Mary moved into the house as a tenant in 1807, it seems unlikely that she had the oven constructed.

The privy was probably built about the same time as the house, circa 1792-1793. The position of the privy against the wall of the kitchen, next to the hearth and next to the beehive oven would have provided some warmth in the structure on cold winter days. The privy was probably used until circa 1910. The city of Baltimore began a campaign to hook houses into the city sewer system in about 1909. By 1914, a large portion of the city's housing was hooked in and the number of outdoor privies dropped. The Flag House probably was hooked into the city system between 1909 and 1914.

The second group of features is associated with repairs done to the house by the Flag House Association. The earliest of these is probably the builder's trench for the brick wall on Albemarle Street. This wall does not appear in photographs of the house until 1928. As the Association took over the house in 1928 and immediately began restoration work, it seems likely that the brick wall was constructed by them in circa 1928.

Restoration work in the 1950s created another group of features, most of which were associated with utilities. These features included a sewer line, a water line, and a repair trench along the wall of the house. The repair trench appears to be associated with well-documented repairs made to the wall in 1953. The sewer line trench did extensive damage to the site. Most of the earlier strata in one unit was destroyed and it also cut through the top portion of the privy. It just missed most of the north edge of the beehive oven by mere centimeters. The northwest corner of the oven was damaged by the sewer trench, as well as the holly tree planting hole mentioned below.

Two features were of very recent date. One was a rodent burrow. The remains of its former occupant were also found within the burrow. The other was a holly tree planted sometime after 1953 and removed in 1993.

No visible traces were found of a shed addition in this area depicted on an 1894 pen and ink drawing of the Flag House. If the addition was flush with the Albemarle side of the building, it is possible that construction of the brick wall along Albemarle completely destroyed all traces of its footer along this line. The excavation of the sewer line trench certainly did erase all traces of the north and west footer of the structure. The repair trench along the kitchen would also have destroyed the south footer. The 1894 sketch appears to be the only documentation of such an addition. It is not in a later photograph dating to about 1907 and its function remains unknown.

Based on the documentation of relatively intact features and diagnostic artifacts, as well as their connection to significant persons and events in Maryland and American history, Site 18BC140 is an exceptional site. The likelihood of encountering additional intact deposits on-site is unknown as no systematic survey has been carried out across the grounds or within the cellar areas of the structure itself. These could be promising avenues for future research. In addition, at least one privy feature (known as Feature 20) was left unexcavated at the site.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

97000663